

“WE ENRICH LIVES THROUGH QUALITY PARKS AND PROGRAMS”

MINUTES

City of San Diego
Park and Recreation Board

February 19, 2004

Meeting held at:

City Administration Building
202 “C” Street, 12th Floor
San Diego, CA 92101

Mailing address is:

City of San Diego
Park & Recreation Board
202 “C” Street, MS 9B
San Diego, CA 92101

ATTENDANCE:

Members Present

Jim Austin, Chair
Ginny Barnes, Vice Chair
Dan Coffey
Darlene Gould Davies
Kevin Faulconer
Norman Greene (2:13 arrival)
Dan Mazzella (2:19 arrival)
Bob Otile
Olivia Puentes-Reynolds
Robert Robinson

Members Absent

Faith Bautista

Staff Present

Mike Behan
Bill Deloatch
June Dudas
Christy Haupt
JoEllen Jacoby
Mark Marney
Ted Medina
Sally Pearson
April Penner
Kelly Rodgers
Debbie Van Martin

Ms. Bautista gave notice that she would be unable to attend today’s meeting. Ms. Shannon Thomas, Deputy City Attorney, also attended the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Austin called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Coffey/Mr. Robinson

The Minutes of January 15, 2004 were unanimously approved by the Board.

REQUESTS FOR CONTINUANCE

None.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

COMMENTS OR ADDITIONS

None.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Austin commented on the February 12 Appreciation Reception arranged by Park & Recreation staff to thank outgoing Area Committee members.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Oppenheim reported on the following:

- This years Buick Invitational Golf Tournament, held February 9 – 15, at Torrey Pines was again a huge success, with an exciting playoff finish and win by John Daly. The North and South courses were in excellent condition thanks to the efforts of Golf staff, and the Century Club did an outstanding job hosting the event.
- The Department Training Office received the very prestigious Organization of the Year regional award from the American Society of Training and Development for changes implemented to improve the Department's Pesticide Program.
- The Balboa Park Trees for Health Garden Brochure and an article on the brochure are featured in the Jan-Feb 2004 issue of California Garden Magazine. A follow-up article will appear in the March-April issue.
- Over the past few months, the Park & Recreation Department has been involved in many ribbon cutting events to celebrate the successful completion of park projects. We have also participated in a recent ground breaking for the Pershing Middle School Joint Use Sports Fields. This is the first project that the City has been involved in where artificial turf will be used. The project was a collaborative effort between Council District 7, community volunteers who participated actively in fund raising, and a successful effort partnering with corporate sponsors. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled sometime this Fall.
- Mr. Dan Coffey was recognized for his attendance at many of the Department's ribbon cutting events over the past few months.

FRIENDS OF PARKS

Mr. Wilbur Smith reported that the May 8 Golf Tournament was the topic of discussion at their meeting. Volunteers and sponsors are still needed. Presentations will be made over the next few months to the recreation councils and various community groups to solicit funding for the event.

ACTION ITEMS

Consent

A motion was made by Mr. Robinson and seconded by Ms. Barnes to approve on consent the following action item:

103. Paradise Hills Community Plan Update

The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption

101. Naming Planned Senior Building at Martin Luther King Community Park “The George L. Stevens Senior Center.”

Ms. Christy Haupt, Community Parks II District Manager, reported that the request to name the proposed senior center after former District 4 Council member George Stevens was initiated by the current Council member, Charles L. Lewis, and constituents in Council District 4. Reverend Stevens was elected to the San Diego City Council in 1991 and served for 11 years, 2 as Deputy City Mayor. Over the past 43 years, his accomplishments are many but his contributions and devotion to the entire District 4 community are some of his proudest. Today, he serves as Senior Community Representative to State Assemblywoman Shirley Horton and continues to represent the communities in the 4th Council District and assists constituents residing in and around those areas.

Ms. Haupt responded to questions and comments made by the Board members.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Coffey/Mr. Faulconer

Mr. Coffey moved to approve naming the planned Seniors Building at Martin Luther King Community Park “The George L. Stevens Senior Center.” Mr. Faulconer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

102. Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Master Plan

Issue #1 - Ms. Barnes moved to approve changing the current name of Sunset Cliffs Shoreline Park, to Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. Mr. Robinson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Issue #2 – Approval of the Master Plan for Sunset Cliffs Natural Park

Ms. JoEllen Jacoby, Park Designer from the Park Planning & Development Division of the Park and Recreation Department, explained that the park is often referred to as the linear park and the hillside park. The linear park is approximately 18 acres and consists of the shoreline that stretches from Adair Street to the north, and Ladera Street to the south.

The hillside park is approximately 50 acres and is the area immediately west of Point Loma Nazarene University. Work on the Master Plan began years ago and has resulted in several draft versions. Due to the fragile nature of the coastal environment and the number of issues associated with the Master Plan, it has taken compromise and refinement to arrive at this document. Of critical importance is the issue of erosion. With approval of a Master Plan, a study can begin of erosion and drainage problems that are slowly eroding the park. It will also allow the City to compete for funding and grants for future improvements. A Master Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared by the City and is currently in the response to public comment phase. However, the EIR does not cover the environmental review needed for implementation of the Master Plan recommendations. All significant improvements will require a project specific environmental analysis. The Draft Master Plan, including each committee's revisions, was approved by the Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Recreation Council, the Coastal Area Committee, and the Design Review Committee. A summary of the revisions are as follows:

1. Ball field will be eliminated and the area restored to natural vegetation
2. On an interim basis, beach access will be provided by the Ladera Street stairs, which are scheduled to be upgraded. However, due to the instability of the cliff underpinnings, a more permanent location will need to be researched and identified.
3. The existing comfort station is adequate for this site. A small public comfort station with a shower for beach users may be considered in the future.
4. The graphics have been updated to show trail barriers and how they would be created.
5. The Bike Trail now has a loop return on it.
6. Language has been added to describe the park expansion and subsurface hydrology. Reference to the pocket beaches has been kept to a minimum.

Ms. Jacoby introduced the consultant, Mr. Tim Jacklewski, from Van Dyke LLP, who provided a Power Point presentation highlighting the Draft Master Plan.

Public testimony (organized presentation format) in favor of the project was heard from each of the following:

Barbara Booth Keiller (Friends of Sunset Cliffs, Inc.) also showed a video of Sunset Cliffs Natural Park, Camilla Ingram (Sunset Cliffs Natural Park Recreation Council Chair).

Public testimony in favor of the project was heard from:

Beryl Flom (League of Women Voters of San Diego), Craig Barilotti (citizen), Katie Elliott (Sunset Cliffs Recreation Council member), Ellen Quick (citizen), Maxine Garrigues (citizen), Robert Kalb (citizen), Daniel

Mendiguchia (Sunset Cliffs Recreation Council member), Steve Scatolini (citizen), Katie Klumpp (citizen).

Public Testimony in favor of the overall project but requesting certain modifications to the Master Plan:

Debra Blum (citizen), and Dedi Ridenour (citizen).

The Chair opened the floor to comments from the Board members.

MOTION MOVED/SECONDED Mr. Coffey/Mr. Otilie

A motion was made by Mr. Coffey and seconded by Mr. Otilie to continue this item until the next meeting with the assumption that the Environmental Impact Report (EIR), including the Response to Comments and any addenda and appendices, will have been completed and sent to the Board members in sufficient time to review before the next Park & Recreation Board meeting. If the aforementioned items are not available in time for review before the March 18, 2004 Park & Recreation Board meeting, this item may be continued until the documents can be reviewed by the Park & Recreation Board members. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION ITEMS

201. Budget Update

Ms. Ellen Oppenheim, Park & Recreation Director, provided a mid year 2004 budget update and a preliminary outlook for the balance of 2004 including what is ahead in FY 2005. Ms. Oppenheim explained that the Park & Recreation Department's total operating budget is approximately \$100 million which is a combination of General Fund and non General Fund dollars. She described how the funds are used department-wide, presented a breakdown of expenditures, and discussed how the budget reductions taken since 1997 have effected the department. Ms. Oppenheim also talked about the upcoming TOT and Bond measure on the March 2 ballot and the positive impact it could have Citywide if it passes as well as the negative impact if it doesn't. She again reiterated the Department's Core Service Priorities and cautioned that Fiscal Year 2005 will be another challenging year. Staff is committed to move forward on major initiatives and to meet the needs of the community to the greatest extent possible.

It was agreed that a budget workshop would be scheduled as a ninety-minute time certain on the March 18 Park and Recreation Board agenda to allow the Board more time to discuss budget issues. Additionally, it was agreed that the Board would hold a public budget forum in May, similar to the one held in 2003, to present the City Manger's Proposed Budget for the Park and Recreation Department, and to provide Board members and citizens an opportunity for input.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Balboa Park Committee

Mr. Mazzella invited the Board members to participate in a tram ride through Balboa Park beginning at 9:00 a.m. to see some of the circulation loops Jones and Jones are suggesting. It is open to the public.

Central Area Committee

No meeting.

City Lakes Committee

No meeting.

Coastal Area Committee

No meeting.

Design Review Committee

No report.

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve Citizens' Advisory Committee

No report.

Mission Bay Park Committee

Mr. Otilie reported on amendments made by the Coastal Commission to the Mission Bay Master Plan that allowed improvements to SeaWorld. At that time, the Coastal Commission expressed concern that we were more focused on helping the lessees make improvements to their properties than improving the park itself. In granting those amendments, certain conditions were imposed on the City of San Diego. One of which was that the City, within two years, develop a prioritization of Capital Improvements within the park and that they prepare a financing strategy to fund those improvements. Mr. Otilie said that a report was prepared by staff but it did not include a financing strategy; it only identified possible funding sources. Staff presented another report recently that essentially indicated no money is available at this time. Some suggestions have been made by the Park & Recreation Director on how the funding issue might be addressed.

Mission Trails Regional Park Citizens' Advisory Committee

No report.

Northern Area Committee

No report.

Southern Area Committee

No report.

Tecolote Canyon Natural Park

No report.

Wetlands Advisory

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is: Thursday, March 18, 2004

City Administration Building
Council Committee Room
202 "C" Street, 12th Floor
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Submitted by,

Ellen Oppenheim
Staff Representative

EO:sp

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